

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the above identified application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated 11/15/04 the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-14. The Office Action and the reference cited therein have been carefully considered and the remarks below are presented in an effort to advance prosecution of the application

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by published US Patent Application US 2002 0004417 (Redekop).

Claims 1, 5 and 9 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. For example, Claim 9 has been amended to distinctly claim that "the paddle is at the leading edge between the mounting hole and the cutting edge." Claim 5 has been amended to distinctly claim that "the paddle is positioned on the leading edge between the mounting hole and the cutting edge adjacent to the first end." Claim 1 has been amended to distinctly claim that the paddle "extends at an angle from the leading edge wherein the paddle is adjacent to the first end."

The disclosure of the Redekop application cited by the examiner does not teach or suggest the blade structure of the present invention as now defined in claims 1-14, and specifically in claims 1, 5 and 9. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in Redekop that "a paddle extends at an angle from the leading edge, wherein the paddle is adjacent to the first end" as set forth in Claim 1.

Rather, Redekop discloses a different blade construction. In Figure 4 of Redekop, Applicant notes that the "planar blade" or "paddle" portion (193) of the blade is adjacent to the tip (second) end of the blade. Thus, the paddle 193 of Redekop is on an end opposite to the first end of the blade, the first end being where the planar mounting portion 191 of the blade is mounted on the lugs 22.

Specifically, as shown in Figure 4, the blade disclosed by Redekop has a leading (cutting) edge 195 on the tip (first) end of the blade and a paddle 195 on the trailing edge, but also on the tip (first) end of the blade.

The straw chopper blade claimed in the present invention is in contrast to the blade disclosed in Redekop. In the blade of the present invention, as shown in Figure 3, the cutting edge 84 is on the leading edge 72 at the second end 78 of the blade. The paddle portion 86 is also on the leading edge 72 at the opposite first end 76 of the blade. The paddle 86 claimed in the present invention is thus longitudinally between the mounting hole 80 and the cutting edge 84 on the leading edge 72 of the blade adjacent to the first end 76.

It is therefore believed that the rejection of all the claims under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Redekop should be withdrawn and that this application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present communication may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525.

Respectfully,



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